

Message Text

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R 122203Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL MUNICH

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STADIS/////////
FOR GILMORE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, SOPN, PFOR

SUBJECT: INFORMAL MEETING WITH RFE/RL MANAGEMENT DURING
EASTERN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

REF: GILMORE/SCHMIDT LETTER, 3-31-78

1. IN LINE WITH REFERENCED LETTER, FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED
TEXT OF CABLE WE WOULD PLAN TO SEND TO EE POSTS AND MOSCOW
INVITING DCM'S TO TAKE PART IN INFORMAL "RAP SESSION" OVER
LUNCH AT GARMISCH, 12:30 - 2:00 P.M., MAY 3. WE HAVE SPELLED
OUT NATURE OF MEETING FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND SESSION
IN 1976. PLEASE GIVE US YOUR APPROVAL, OR COMMENTS AND ANY
PROPOSED CHANGES IN TEXT, BY CABLE AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVEN-
IENCE. SLUG CABLE FOR EUR/EE. UNLESS YOU THINK OTHERWISE,
WE WOULD THEN PLAN TO INFORM WALTER ROBERTS AND SEND THE
CABLE OUT VIA REGULAR DISTRIBUTION CHANNEL.

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2. BEGIN TEXT: "REPRESENTATIVES OF RFE/RL MANAGEMENT IN
MUNICH HAVE KINDLY CONSENTED TO TRAVEL TO GARMISCH ON WEDNES-
DAY, MAY 3, TO MEET WITH DCM'S ATTENDING ECON/COMMERCIAL
OFFICERS' CONFERENCE FOR AN INFORMAL "RAP SESSION" TO REVIEW
RADIOS' ACTIVITIES AND TO HEAR FIRST-HAND FROM DCM'S THEIR
ASSESSMENTS OF CURRENT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL

SCENES IN THEIR HOST COUNTRIES.

3. WE UNDERSTAND FROM CONGEN MUNICH THAT RFE/RL MANAGEMENT PARTICIPANTS WILL BE RALPH WALTER, VICE PRESIDENT OF RFE/RL FOR POLICY AND PROGRAMS; RFE DIRECTOR BILL BUELL, AND RFE DEPUTY DIRECTOR JIM BROWN. ALSO PARTICIPATING WILL BE HARRY GILMORE OF CONGEN MUNICH AND CARL SCHMIDT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EUR/EE.

4. DEPARTMENT HOPES THAT DCM'S FROM ADDRESSEE POSTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, WHICH WILL BE SIMILAR TO THAT HELD DURING 1976 E/C OFFICERS' CONFERENCE. SESSION INTENDED TO BE STRICTLY INFORMAL IN FORMAT AND ATMOSPHERE AND WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 12:30-2:00 P.M. OVER LUNCH IN PRIVATE DINING ROOM AT GENERAL PATTON HOTEL.

5. PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE TO SCHMIDT ON ARRIVAL AT GARMISCH." END TEXT.

6. WE NOTE THAT CIRCULAR CABLE ANNOUNCING 1976 SESSION INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: "YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT, IN VIEW OF RFE SENSITIVITIES, OTHER WASHINGTON PARTICIPANTS IN ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS' CONFERENCE HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE PLAN TO MEET IN GARMISCH WITH RFE OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, ART DOWNEY WILL BE SO INFORMED." WOULD SUCH A PRECAUTION BE ADVISABLE AGAIN? CHRISTOPHER
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